

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 183

ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 1962,
12:30 p.m., EDT

MR. REAP: You will note on the Secretary's appointment list that he will see the Latin American Chief of Mission at 4:00. In the course of this meeting of course he will point out or will discuss the present conditions in Cuba. It will be an off-the-record session.

There is also an appointment which is not on your schedule. The Czech Ambassador will see Mr. Martin, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, at 3:00. That appointment has been made at the request of the Czech Ambassador.

Q Did he indicate any purpose?

A I don't know what the purpose is. He has not indicated it.

Q Has he indicated that it was about Cuba?

A He has not indicated anything. He has simply asked for the appointment, as I understand it.

Q What time was that, Joe?

A At 3:00.

Q And he asked today? Today the request was made?

A I think it was made today, but I am not sure, but the appointment has been made for 3:00.

Q Joe, will you promise to try to get us something on that?

A I will make an effort. I don't want to say I will promise.

Q Did you get any reply to your protest over the shooting of that American plane. There was a protest delivered by the Swiss, wasn't there?

A The one the other day? No; I am not aware of any reply.

Q Has there been any official confirmation of the ship that fired at the plane, that it was actually Cuban?

A Has there been any confirmation of it?

Q Official confirmation that it was actually a Cuban ship which shot at the American plane?

A I think if you read the statement, that is the limit of my information about it, that they appeared to be Cuban ships. Yes, I think that that was the language used.

Q That is why I asked you as to whether it has been definitely asserted that it was Cuban ships?

A Not so far as I know.

Q Will the Secretary ask the Latin Americans

to do anything?

A Did he?

Q Or will he this afternoon? Are we just giving them a fill-in on the situation there, or does he contemplate some joint action by the Latin Americans and the United States?

A As I understand it, it is a fill-in.

Q How long since the last of these meetings, Joe?

A I just don't know, John. There could have been a meeting while I was away. I just don't know. Do you happen to know, Jim?

MR. BISHOP: I don't recall the Secretary having had one of them for quite some time. Martin has had meetings with them within the last few months.

Q Any prospect for a Secretary's news conference this week?

A I don't want to say flatly, but I don't think we will have one.

Q Joe, has there been anything more on that U-2 business?

A No. I think that is all there is to it.

Q Joe, do you have any indication of the Secretary's plans to go up to New York for the General Assembly?

A I don't have the figure.

Q I think the essence of this story was that only twelve were being trained and therefore that the number of American personnel assigned to do the job was top heavy.

A Well, I think that your story indicated that there were 600 people training 12. Now, I do not have the number who are being trained, but the facts reduce the 600--reduce it to 10%--less than 10%.

Q Oh, I thought you said 200 officers and men.

A About one-quarter of the 200, which would be 50, but I do not know how many are training. I don't know whether that is classified or not. You might get that from the Pentagon.

Q Joe, I see that the Israeli Minister of Transport and Communications charges that at the just-concluded ICAO Conference in Rome, I believe, Israel missed election to any of the committees created there because of U. S. opposition. Do you know anything about that?

A Not a thing.

Q Do you have any prospects for the afternoon other than the Rusk meeting with the Ambassadors?

A I really don't, John. I don't know of anything now.

Q Do you expect to release any kind of statement after that meeting?

A As of now, I do not. The meeting was to be off the record.

Q Do you consider that meeting to be a sort of follow-up to yesterday's White House statement?

A Well, certainly that would be connected with and follow up--and the information that we have been dealing with here on Cuba for the last week or so.

Q But as far as you know, it is not a question of recommending some plan or program of action, but rather of giving them information?

A That is my understanding, yes.

Q Joe, does the Department believe that a meeting as large as this can remain off the record for very long?

A No comment.

Q Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 12:43 p.m., the press briefing was concluded.]